

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on October 23, 2003.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 14, and 16 are canceled; as a result, claims 5, 11-13, 15, and 17-39 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,022,586). Applicant has canceled claims 1-4, 6-10, 14, and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 5, 11-13, 15, and 17-39.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 349-9593 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his Representatives,

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Date 23 Dec. 2003

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 23 day of December, 2003.

Tina Kohaut
Name

Z. H.
Signature